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# MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



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Volume XIII

SEPTEMBER, 1941

Number 7

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LIBRARY DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ST. PAUL

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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES is published quarterly by the Library Division, Minnesota Department of Education, St. Paul. Entered as Second Class Matter, October 19, 1911, at the Post Office at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1894. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 1, 1918.

Code XIII—A-1.

# MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

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## *Obsolescent Books*

One of the most vexing problems that confronts the library administrator today is the difficulty of finding adequate self room to house an ever-growing book collection. Buildings erected in an earlier day were not planned to care for normal growth of the collection. This architectural oversight has brought about chronic, administrative disturbances since pressing need for space enforces maladjustments which react promptly upon library efficiency and service to the public. Book collections are always cumulative, never static, and unless building plans envisage future growth perplexing problems constantly arise to harass the library administrator.

In many libraries, the smaller ones particularly, that point of saturation has been reached where it is difficult to care for new accessions. It is obvious that the situation can resolve itself only by the adoption of one of two courses: adding a new wing to the old building or drastically culling the book collection of obsolescent matter. The former is desirable but presents formidable difficulties in these times of economic stress. The latter is the more practicable and provides a simple remedy within the reach of every library.

This remedy has long been needed but too many library officials have lacked the courage to apply it. The serious overcrowding which so generally prevails could be alleviated by the simple expedient of discarding books and bound periodicals that have long since outlived their usefulness.

Much of the old material to be found on library shelves was donated originally to the public library in its early adolescence as a sequence to book drives which it sponsored. Well-intentioned citizens responded to these drives by ransacking attics for old books dating all the way back to grandfather's time. Thus the public library became the storehouse for old books which their owners no longer wanted and which no one else wanted to read. Over a long period of time such books became sacrosanct—perhaps on the mistaken assumption that their monetary value increased with age.

The practice of unloading old books upon the public library still prevails throughout the state. A periodic housecleaning or death of a citizen may bring to the library small collections of books which originally appeared at the turn of the century or shortly thereafter. It is the custom of most libraries to accept these unwanted books with polite expressions of public gratitude. It is always easier to accept gracefully than to offend the donor by rejecting them. Only too often such books are crated in old boxes and stored in damp basements or else are shelved for circulation.

It would be to the everlasting advantage of all public libraries if their boards would formulate a policy governing book gifts and would make acceptance conditional on their usefulness to the public. Donors could be informed that books not needed would be offered to the University or Historical Society Library. The small public library should be neither a storehouse for books nor a book museum. By the very nature of its smallness it can afford to be neither.

It is not unusual to find in most of the smaller libraries old books and magazines dating back to the 70's and 80's. Many old year books, almanacs, subscription sets and encyclopedias are shelved with other books in the collection where they remain unopened for years. Such books take up shelf-room, gather dust, and gradually disintegrate having served no useful purpose whatever. These volumes are no credit to the library holding them since, unused, they complicate the housing situation and, if used, they serve to misinform the reader careless of imprint dates. It is not the size of the collection that counts but the quality; not how many books but what books, or books for what purpose.

Moreover, it should not be overlooked that old, dead books needlessly pad the collection in such a way that the reader may become irritated while browsing through the collection to find the wheat among the chaff. Patrons in small communities are attracted to the library in relation to the number of live, useful books which they find on the shelves that serve their needs. Conversely, they are impelled to remain away when the ratio of old books to current ones is disproportionately large.

Old books now reposing in the many public libraries throughout the state could be disposed of to good purpose. Those having any value could be sold to dealers in old books while the remainder could be sent to the University Library and thereby be made accessible to research workers having occasion to consult original source materials, or else be used by the University for exchange purposes.

In view of the administrative difficulties which the retention of old books is creating for most libraries, the Library Division is devoting this issue of its publication to the broader aspects of the problem in the form of a group of articles which cover the subject rather fully. They should be particularly helpful to the smaller public libraries where housing conditions are especially acute. The contributors have used the realistic approach in their handling of the problem and have pointed the way to corrective measures which every library could adopt with beneficial results.—L. F. Z.

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### *Regional Library Associations*

Regional or district library organizations are useful agencies which play an important role in the promotion of library activities within an area, and in the development of inter-library cooperative projects. They provide an opportunity for librarians of a district to get together to compare ideas, to discuss current practices, and to derive professional stimulation from co-workers faced with the same common problems.

At present there is only one active, district public library association in the state. This is the Arrowhead Library Club which was organized April 11, 1935. Since its organization it has developed a continuity of purpose, a strong group solidarity, and the vigorous backing of the Range librarians who make up its membership.

In addition to the Range group two other district clubs have been organized in the past. One of them, the Southern Library Association, was organized by librarians from the southern part of the state at a meeting held in Rochester, May 20, 1938. It is not very active at present and has held no meetings since May, 1940.

The other one, the Lake Region Library Club, no longer exists. It was established in October, 1917, and for many years was a strong, active organization. Its membership covered an extensive area and was drawn from the northern two-thirds of the state. The last meeting of this club was held in Alexandria, June, 1939, with only six librarians in attendance. Since then it has shown no signs of activity.

Librarians affiliated with these two groups might well consider measures to revive their organizations and in so doing provide for a breakdown of their large regional areas into a number of smaller ones. The district association that covers too wide an area courts the danger of disintegration. Distances may be too great to make meetings easily accessible to some members. This may account in part for the gradual decline of the Lake Region Club.

Minnesota badly needs district library organizations. The benefits to be derived from their activities are so advantageous that librarians in every section of the state should become interested in their possibilities. They are not difficult to establish. All that is needed is a bit of planning and the will to action. The Library Division will be glad to cooperate with any group anywhere in the state which may see fit to take the initiative in this direction.—L. F. Z.

# "Dead, But Not Yet Taken Away"\*

ANGUS MOWAT

*Inspector of Public Libraries, Ontario Department of Education*

There was an article in one of our Canadian magazines once. I don't remember who wrote it and I don't remember where I saw it. But it was a first-class essay and it was about library signs. Or about the absence of them. A complaint. A justifiable one. The author of it was a man who travelled about Ontario, stopping in the villages and smaller towns; and who, being a wise man, preferred of an evening the hard chairs of the public library to the exotic luxuries of the local beverage-room.

Beverage-room! Repeat it aloud, hyphen and all! Let it tripple delicately over your tongue; then say if you can that we are not a lyrical people!

But that is by the way. The thing is, that in a great number of places our traveler appears to have encountered much difficulty in finding the public library. He cries out that there were no finger-posts, that there were no pointers, no signs. He sought his way in the dark; and I expect that when he did happen by chance to stumble upon the proper building he may often have had trouble in recognizing it for what it was. His complaint, as I remember, stopped there. I wish it hadn't. I wish he had gone on to tell us what he thought about what he found inside the library when he finally succeeded in unearthing it. But he didn't. He simply went away and left you with the impression that in far too many instances he had a distinct feeling that the library was hiding away from him.

Well, perhaps it was.

Perhaps it had reason to. Perhaps it didn't have very much to offer the stranger—or anybody else—and knew it, and was doing its shrinking best to keep from being found out. Libraries can be ashamed of themselves. They can become assured by long-continued ill-use and starvation and

neglect and contumelious treatment generally, that they really are no more than the poor sisters of the school-system, and born out of wedlock at that. Miles out of it! And it is too bad; because it is pretty evident that if schools exist for anything—and universities too—they exist for the purpose, chiefly, of putting into the hands of those that pass through them, the equipment, the keys, the tools, if you like, which will enable them to use the stores the library has for them—or ought to have for them. It is evident, also, that the library must be the mecca of those who see any point in adult education.

So, having offered that suggestion let me state, precisely, that I am talking about libraries in Ontario; and that I am talking about small-town libraries and village libraries and libraries in rural centres. Not the city libraries, mind you, or the town libraries. They have their problems but I'm not talking about them now.

And what I say about the libraries the people of rural Ontario usually have, is that they are better without any sign-posts pointing the way to them. Much better. I haven't seen them all; but during the past four months I have seen a hundred of them, and I have read the annual reports of all the rest; and I repeat that, on the whole, they are not in need of sign-posts. They are bad. A great many of them are worse than that. There are exceptions, of course. You can go into little libraries in little places that are clean, and eager, and vigorous; that are drawing to them the school-children and the old people and the students and the middle-aged men and women; that are passing out to their communities twelve or fourteen books per capita every year. You do find libraries like that and they make you want to hug somebody.

Because of the contrast, you see. Because of the others.

\*Originally published in *Adult Learning*. Reprinted from *Ontario Library Review*, v. 22, p. 2-5. Mr. Mowat, a veteran of the last World War, is now on leave of absence and is serving in the present war as major of his old regiment.



Here is a quotation from notes made in the course of duty.

"This library is upstairs over a butcher's shop, but it is less attractive than the butcher's shop although it contains very much the same kind of material, dead, but not yet taken away. You reach it by going up a steep stair that is very dirty and has a vast number of cobwebs attached to it. There are two rooms. One has a box-stove and some firewood and nothing else. The other has shelves all the way round it, the top one being some eight or nine feet high; and when you turn on the light—because the glass in the windows isn't altogether penetrable—you look right round the room at three thousand books that you don't want to read. You don't want to touch them. You don't even want to smell them—but you can't help it."

This is a dismal kind of note to have to write, but it is a true one and it is one, unfortunately, that is repeated with only slight variations over and over again; and perhaps the saddest thing about it is the realization of the fact that this was once a good enough library, that it did serve its people, that it was a force in the life of its community, that it, too, once had vigour and eagerness and the power to stimulate. But you can't blame the library itself for the present state of decay. You can't look around at those shelves of mouldy relics of a gone generation and shout at them like a sergeant-major and say, "Come along, you fellows—move! For God's sake *move!* Do something with yourselves!" You can't rush out into the street, either, and seize upon One-of-Three and haul him up the dirty stair and take him to a shelf and say to him, "Now look here, old man, there's some good stuff here. All you've got to do is to get at it. Now just take this lot; there are fifty-four of them and they all look like nothing on earth and fifty-three are dead as door-nails and dull as dishwater. But the fifty-fourth—if you'll only read your way through to it—is a gem. I know you can't make out the title on the back; and it's filthy and a quarter of an inch deep with dust and has all the appearance of something that might have been dug up with the

potatoes. But it really is a gem. That book's got something for you!"

You can't do that because One-of-Three would simply gaze coldly upon you for a moment and then go off to buy the current issue of *The Trigger-Finger* at the drug store. Something in a bright cover. And if you blame him you are not looking very far beneath the surface, because the fact is that contemporary people are so unreasonable as to want contemporary books. That or nothing. They will, it is true, read a great deal of the best of our literary heritage, but only on condition that it is in a format that attracts them, that they are accustomed to, that they like the look and feel of. They will not read it if it looks like an old tombstone and if they have to dig it out with patience and with dirty fingers from beneath tons of passe fiction and tinder-dry biography and heavy-footed books of oldish travel.

No, you can't blame the library any more than you can blame your dog for growing old and losing his teeth. The blame, where it is due, and the praise, where it is due, rest solely upon the leadership that the library has had; upon the personnel; upon the library board; and most of all, upon the librarian.

*The Biennial Survey of Libraries in Canada, 1935*, which, by the way, is the finest document of its kind that there has been, and which can be obtained from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, states that 37 per cent of Ontario's population—all rural—is without library service. I think this is a great exaggeration. It may be folly to contradict people's figures when you haven't any others to offer in their place; but going on one's past experience in library work, on what one has been able to see in four months, and on what one has read in the annual reports, I am prepared to make a guess that the percentage of our people without library service is nearer fifty than thirty-seven, since after all it does take more than a few shelves of old books, tucked away in a dark room and never used, to make what may rightly be called service.

The fact is, that in spite of some glowing

exceptions, the villages and rural centres of the province generally haven't got it. They simply haven't got it. And, the times being what they are, and the face of our rural life changing as swiftly as it is, this is a pretty serious state of affairs.

But happily there is an answer. And more happily, that answer is being supplied, not by any government agency, not by any fabulously rich foundation, but by the people themselves.

The answer is, "co-operation."

It has been heard already in four counties and is lifting up its voice in a fifth. Lambton started it, Middlesex followed, then Elgin and Oxford; and the other evening a hundred people from all over Waterloo met in the library at Kitchener to talk it over—one hundred keen people who were teachers, preachers, farmers, merchants, lawyers and housewives; and they gnawed away at it till midnight; and out of it all came the clear conviction that, "Those others have got hold of something worth while, something we need, something we intend to have."

They will.

What has happened, in effect, is this: that enlightened people, feeling the need of book service for themselves and their communities, and looking sadly upon that which they have at hand, and not having any idea in the world—naturally—how to set about organizing that service, have gathered themselves together and have hied them into the county town and have said to the librarian there, "We do need this thing and we're willing to work for it, but we don't know what to do. Will you tell us? Will you help us? Will you direct us?"

"Yes."

So there you have the need felt, the need become articulate, the direction given with generous hands. And as a result of these things you have in the province four County Library Associations now functioning and one in the process of being formed. The beginning still somewhat experimental, of a movement that is one day going to bring

book service to the people of rural Ontario, and a movement that will be strong and that will be lasting because it has grown out of the very soil itself.

And what is a County Library Association?

This, briefly. Take Lambton for the illustration because it is the oldest. Four years old, to be exact. You have your central library, Sarnia, with training and experience in organization, in book selection and book buying. You have eighteen small libraries, each contributing a portion of its annual income to a general fund. You have an annual grant from the County Council and one from the Provincial Government. You buy your books through the central library and deliver them to the secretary of the association, who lives in the county. She catalogues them and lists them and packs them in cases which she shuffles round among the eighteen libraries once every three months. So that if each of your little libraries has, say, \$100 a year to spend on books, it buys for itself \$75 worth and contributes to the general fund the remaining \$25, for which it receives the use each year of 720 books—about \$1,000 worth.

That's good arithmetic.

And the results. Well, eighteen small libraries, each receiving 180 new books every quarter. A blood transfusion, you might say, every three months. And then their own private, permanent purchases on top of that. And more and more people finding their way to the library now because it has something for them that they are wondering how they ever got along without. No more cobwebs, no more dead and mouldering bones cluttering up the shelves, no more apathy, no more sitting back with folded hands and bewailing the stupid belief that "... folks around here just won't read books at all, somehow." They will. Of course they will, whether there is a sign above the library door or not. All they need is the chance.

And cooperation is the answer.

# Weeding the Library\*

*Suggestions for the Guidance of Librarians of Small Libraries*

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## WHY SHOULD THE BOOK COLLECTION BE WEEDED?

Every library accumulates by gift and by purchase, books which must be considered for removal from the shelves when their usefulness is past. In small libraries where shelf room and storage space are limited, the need for keeping only a usable, up-to-date collection of books presents an important problem. It is not enough that a library meets standards of efficiency in the total number of books and in volumes added each year. The book collection should represent quality as well as quantity. It is a sign of a healthy condition of the book collection and a wise administration of the book fund when the library's annual report reveals a fair correspondence between the number of new books regularly purchased and the number of books regularly discarded.

The librarian should be familiar with the lending privileges of large libraries nearby, of the Division of Adult Education and Library Extension of the State Education Department and of the State Library.<sup>1</sup> Any book which may be needed only occasionally in the small community should be borrowed from one of these sources. For this reason the librarian of the small library need feel no compunction in removing from the shelves certain books of very limited appeal.

## HOW OFTEN IS IT DESIRABLE?

Each time a book is handled in a library, if time permits, it should be examined as to its physical condition and to its continued suitability. At least once a year the entire collection should be examined, to find those worn-out books missed in the process of circulation, to remove books which no longer justify their space on the shelves because of infrequent circulation, and to consider the need of replacement of books in poor editions with better editions as funds permit.

## BY WHOM SHOULD IT BE DONE?

The librarian should personally take charge of the first steps of the weeding process, if she has studied the principles of book selection in a course of library training, or if she has learned through years of experience the needs of the community and the usefulness of books of all classes in the library. Members of the book committee and the library trustees sometimes make the final decisions as to discard and replacement of the books in question. The Division of Adult Education and Library Extension<sup>1</sup> can always be called upon for advice or help in weeding problems.

Use the advice of persons whose judgment you can trust. Check up their advice with standard lists. Technical books go out-of-date in ten years or less. Newspaper men can give advice on local items, and obsolete educational texts are quickly recognized as such by teachers and school principals. Such advice from local well-informed citizens is two-fold in its value to the library, for it brings competent opinion to a problem which is often beyond the librarian's knowledge, and it tends to awaken a feeling of cooperation and friendliness between the library administration and worth while and influential residents.

\*Division of Adult Education and Library Extension. State Education Department, University of the State of New York. Albany, 1940. (Reprinted by permission in slightly abbreviated form.)

<sup>1</sup>In Minnesota, the Library Division, State Department of Education.



## WHAT PRINTED AIDS SHOULD BE USED?

Good classified lists will indicate books of lasting value in various subjects. Many of these are made for library use by experts in various fields and by librarians of special training and experience. Assemble as many of them as possible. Compare the lists, class by class. It will be found that many of the same books appear in them. In some cases, new editions or new authorities will be found to replace out-of-date books on your shelves.

The following professional aids are recommended:<sup>2</sup>

**American Library Association. A. L. A. catalog, 1926. A. L. A. 1926. \$3**

A basic list of 10,295 books for the general library, selected from all books in print in 1926.

— **A. L. A. catalog, 1926-31. A. L. A. 1932. \$4.50**

A supplement to the above A. L. A. 3000 titles.

— **A. L. A. catalog, 1932-36. A. L. A. 1938. \$5**

Annotated list of nearly 4000 titles.

— **The Booklist. A guide to new books. A. L. A. Twice monthly, \$3 a year; single copy, 25c**

The librarian's standard guide for the selection of current books.

— **Booklist books; a selection. A. L. A. 1935, 65c; 1936, 75c; 1938, 75c; 1939, 75c; 1940, 75c**

About 200 books of each year actually found useful in libraries. Also lists technical books.

— **Inexpensive books for boys and girls. A. L. A. 1938. 50c**

Lists about 900 titles in editions costing \$1 or less. Prepared by Book Evaluation Committee of the Section for Library Work with Children of the A. L. A. A chart is appended which enables one to evaluate and compare inexpensive series.

**American Library Association. Replacement list of fiction. A. L. A. 1939. Planographed. \$1**

A selected list of novels.

— **Subscription books bulletin. A. L. A. Quarterly, \$2 a year**

A source of unbiased and dependable information about the books and sets sold by canvassing agents. Over 350 reviewed since the Bulletin's inception in 1930. Back numbers still available.

**Children's catalog; 5th ed. rev. H. W. Wilson, 1936. Service basis**

A standard guide for juvenile books. (A revised edition to be published in early fall.)

— **1939 supplement. H. W. Wilson, 1939.**

**Edge, Sigrid, comp. Books for self education. A. L. A. 1938. Single copy, 75c**

An annotated list of 500 simple and readable books.

**Elmendorf, T. W., comp. Poetry and poets, a reader's list. A. L. A. 1931. 75c**

An annotated guide to some of the best in poetry.

**Felsenthal, Emma, comp. Readable books in many subjects. A. L. A. 1929. 40c**

A list of 300 books for adult beginners.

**Fitzroy, E. M., comp. Illustrated editions of high school classics. A. L. A. 1930. 75c**

An annotated list of some 700 books.

**Graded lists of books for children. Compiled by joint committee of the N. E. A., A. L. A., and the N. C. T. E. A. L. A. 1936. \$1.75**

Included about 1600 titles. Selections range from first grade through junior high.

**Horton, Marion, comp. Buying list of books for small libraries; 6th ed. A. L. A. 1940. \$1.75**

A basic selection of 1750 books.

**Lingenfelter, M. R., comp. Vocations in fiction; 2d ed. rev. A. L. A. 1938. \$1.25**

Indexes 463 titles under 102 alphabetically arranged subjects.

**Matson, Charlotte, comp. Books for tired eyes; a list of books in large print; 3d ed.**

A. L. A. 1940. 65c

Lists about 1300 books for young people and adults printed in 12 point and larger type.

<sup>2</sup>Available for circulation from the Library Division, State Department of Education. In addition the recently published title *Five hundred books for children* (U. S. Office of Education, Bulletin No. 11, Price 15c) is also recommended.

**Mudge, I. G., comp. Guide to reference books;** 6th ed. A. L. A. 1936. \$4.25

Describes over 4000 reference works in more than 30 languages.

— **Reference books of 1935-37.** A. L. A. 1939. 75c

**National Council of Teachers of English. Books for home reading for high schools.** The Council, 211 W. 68th st., Chicago, Ill. 1937. 20c

— **Leisure reading for grades seven, eight and nine.** The Council. 1938. 20c

— **Reading for fun.** The Council. 1937. 20c

**1000 books for the senior high school library.** Joint committee of the N. E. A., A. L. A., and the N. C. T. E. A. L. A. 1935. \$1

The sponsorship of this list and of the Graded list speaks for itself.

**Right book for the right child; a graded buying list of children's books.** Day. 1933. \$2.50

**Rue, Eloise. Subject index to readers.** A. L. A. 1938. \$1.80

Nearly 4000 references to 285 commonly used modern readers—from preprimer through third grade—are indexed under 1000 subjects.

**Standard catalog for high school libraries;** 3d ed. rev. H. W. Wilson. 1937. Service basis  
An essential tool for every high school.

— **Supplement.** H. W. Wilson. 1938. Service basis

**Standard catalog for public libraries;** 1941 ed. H. W. Wilson. 1941. Service basis

## HOW SHOULD THE BOOKS BE SORTED?

### *Books needing mending*

Books slightly worn which are to remain on the shelves without much further physical attention, can be made strong with paste and reinforcement in the proper places (usually adult fiction). See booklets on library mending, with lists of supplies, published by Demco Library Supplies, Madison, Wis., and New Haven, Conn.; Gaylord Bros., Syracuse, N. Y.; H. R. Hunting Co., Springfield, Mass.

### *Books needing cleaning*

Pages of smooth paper can be cleaned with a piece of cheesecloth, warm water and white soap. Rub the wet cloth over the soap lightly, then rub carefully over the soiled page. Clean edges of books with sandpaper. Clean covers with soft rubber or art gum. Press over night. For cleaning children's linen picture books, add a little vinegar to the water with which they are sponged.

### *Books to be rebound*

Worth while books having several loose signatures or in which the binding threads of the back are broken, should be sent to a bindery to be rebound in bright, attractive covers. Write for prices and make arrangements with a reliable binder.

### *Storage*

If storage shelves are available in the library, place there those books which are not needed regularly on the shelves but which are not to be discarded. This collection will include:

- Duplicate copies of books of great seasonal popularity, such as Shakespeare's plays and other classics used each year by high school classes.
- Standard editions of complete works of major poets, novelists, orators, etc.

#### Old Books:

- Interesting, unusual or rare editions.
- Early works (often out of print) of outstanding authors.

- Books containing interesting old woodcuts or steel engravings or illustrations by well-known artists or good old plates or maps.
- Children's books representing early style in form, illustration and content.

Sets of books:

- Complete sets of value but in little demand.
  - Parts of sets representing author's works not called for often.
- Periodicals. See: periodicals.

*Discards:* Remove from the active shelves:

Adult fiction:

- Worn-out, incomplete and dirty books which can not be mended or cleaned.
- Out-of-date fiction by popular authors of many years ago.
- Trivial books of any date which have outlived their popularity.
- Books which have not circulated in the past five years should be considered for discard. (Be sure that they have been given fair opportunity to circulate by having good accessible location on the shelves and clear marking of author and title on back.)

Adult nonfiction:

- 100's: out-of-date psychologies, hypnotism, mental healing of last century, how to be happy, temperance tracts, duties of children, etc.
- 200's: out-of-date mission study manuals, old books of rituals, old hymn books, out-of-date editions of sectarian books.
- 300's: woman suffrage publications, old child labor and other labor books, old investment and currency books, out-of-date teachers' manuals; discredited theories of education, out-of-date educational information such as old college catalogs, handbooks, etc., woman's place, opportunities for wage-earnings, etc. (Material in this class of historical value should be saved or given to a large reference library.)
- 400's: bulky histories of language (not many of this class to be discarded).
- 500's: old textbooks and treatises, experimental sciences of the 1800's, early theories of electricity.
- 600's: out-of-date engineering and technical books, early automobile books, home decoration of other years, dressmaking.
- 700's: Follow same general practices as noted under adult fiction.
- 800's: Follow same general practices as noted under adult fiction.
- 900's: old histories no longer considered authentic in the light of recent research. Subscription sets of no literary or historical value. Personal accounts of experiences in the World War, except those of outstanding importance, literary value, or local participation.
- 910's: travel in 1800's in Europe and North America, except of historical importance, personal accounts of travels by persons of no importance and in countries for which better and later material is available.
- 920's: old biographies of persons little known today; biographies in de luxe editions of many volumes which, if worth keeping should be replaced by more compact and modern editions.

Children's books: See section, "Give our children the best available books—not the worst!" listing series of the kind the librarian should avoid placing on the shelves.

## HOW SHOULD DISCARDED MATERIAL BE TREATED?

*Before disposing of discarded books remove the book cards.* See that each card bears author, title, class number and accession number. At the earliest opportunity, use the cards to (1) mark the accession book entries "discarded" with the date; (2) if no other copy in library remove all catalog and shelflist cards; (3) keep a record of the total number of books discarded each year, fiction and nonfiction, adult and juvenile. This number, subtracted from the total number of books purchased, will show the growth of the book collection during the year.

*Children's books:* If discarded books are removed from the library shelves because of their mediocrity or their undesirable quality, they should not be distributed to other centers for the use of children.

If the books are discarded because they are soiled and worn out, there may be found hospitals, reform schools or summer camps for children to which they can be given.

It is best to burn discarded books for children.<sup>3</sup> Do not give publicity to the fact of the burning. Many people regard books as articles of such permanent value no matter what their quality or condition, that burning amounts to sacrilege. It is better for the librarian, with the consent of the book committee or trustees to attend to this than to depend upon a janitor or an unreliable person. In too many cases the books have not been destroyed.

*Adult fiction:* If these books are too worn for further use, they may be sold as old paper to a junk man, or given to the Salvation Army for that purpose. If this is done, remove the covers first and cancel all marks of the library's ownership of the books, on the title pages and inside pages. This may be done with a heavily penciled "Discarded" through the library perforation or stamp. It prevents complications later if the books are found and their ownership is questioned.

*Adult nonfiction:* Do not destroy any adult nonfiction until lists of them, or the books themselves, have been checked by someone competent to judge of their present usefulness in some other library or their value to the library as rare books.

Many books will be discarded because they are duplicates in little demand or because their usefulness in the community has been exhausted. These may be books which would be enjoyed by readers in other communities if a means of circulating them were perfected. It is hoped that in each county a central strong library will volunteer to collect these books from all the libraries of the county and will arrange a system of exchange whereby each contributing library may select from the whole collection an equivalent number of popular and attractive books each year in exchange for books which have no local appeal. If such a plan can be evolved the librarian is advised to place the catalog and shelflist cards in each book and to assemble a special collection of these books on storage shelves.

*U. S. Government Documents:* Keep only those bound documents containing material which is obviously useful and fits the reference needs of the library.

In discarding bound federal documents, do not destroy them unless official permission is given. The librarian must write to Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., (1) stating the total number and a general description of the books (not an itemized list) and (2) requesting franks with which to mail them to Washington. The Superintendent of Documents, upon receiving this request, directs the local post office to furnish sufficient mail sacks in which the books are to be packed. If the shipment is very large the library may be asked to delay mailing until a time when the office can best

<sup>3</sup>In Minnesota, the University Library will accept children's books in fair condition.

handle the books. The libraries are cautioned not to send these mail sacks to the express office. Only through the Post Office Department is the shipment made without charge to the library.

In building up a working collection of government publications, these lists will be found helpful:

**Guide to United States Government publications.** Bulletin 1918. No. 2. Washington.

Gov't Ptg. Office. 1918. 20c

"As a reference for information on the departments of the Government it is invaluable; as a guide to the sources of government documents it is indispensable. The list of libraries at which government publications are deposited for reference purposes may be found in the back of the pamphlet. There are 29 such depository libraries in New York State."

**Monthly catalog of United States Public documents.** Washington. Gov't Ptg. Office. \$1 a year

"This is a price list of the recent documents, arranged by the bureau or department which issues them. . . . The complete list, containing the publications of every department."

**Weekly list of selected United States Government publications.** Washington. Gov't Ptg. Office. Free

"A time-saver and the source of information concerning newly published material on a wide range of subjects. The documents are arranged by subject, with brief annotations. This is a list which every librarian should receive and check for ordering."

Many small libraries are burdened with many old bound government publications for which they have no demand from readers and for which there is no index available.

The librarian is advised to weed them carefully. Consider keeping the following:

From Department of Agriculture:

Statistical Year Book

Farmers' Bulletins

From Civil Service Commission:

Laws, regulations and announcements

From Department of Commerce:

Statistical abstract of United States

Year Book of Commerce

Abstract of Census. Decennial

From Congress:

Biographical Congressional Directory

From Department of the Interior:

Educational Directory

United States Official Postal Guide

*State Documents.* Keep only those that have value or use in your community. In discarding state documents write first to the Director, New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.<sup>4</sup> List documents to be discarded and ask for permission to destroy or instructions for returning them.

There are a few classes of books which are especially solicited by the State Library:<sup>5</sup>

Books and pamphlets printed in the United States before 1800

Books and pamphlets printed in New York State before 1825

Upstate newspapers before 1870

Unusual bound files of upstate newspapers up to 1910

Books of history, description, poetry, family history, biography, printed in the small towns and villages of this State or other states

<sup>4</sup>In Minnesota, to the Director, Library Division, State Dept. of Education.

<sup>5</sup>In Minnesota, this type of material might well be sent to either the State Historical Society Library or the University of Minnesota Library.



New York State public documents, bound or unbound, before 1830

Maps

Manuscripts

Collection of letters, deeds, local documents or memorabilia relating to the history of the State or the lives of any of its public men

*Periodicals* The small library subscribes to magazines for reading material to supplement its book collection. After the first months of use, however, the magazine's usefulness has decreased until its principal value to the library is in its reference adaptation. Reference demands vary with different communities and are influenced by school library resources and by the proximity of large reference libraries. For this reason, the small library must survey the conditions affecting the reference use of its periodicals and determine not only the individual magazines needed for its work, but also the length of time those magazines must remain in the library.

It is wise for each library to keep a small number of magazines for reference use. Included should be a current events monthly, a literary monthly, a children's magazine, a scientific and a travel magazine. Other titles should be available in neighboring libraries, and a strong central library should be the center in which files of all essential periodicals for reference use should be available.

No small library should keep periodicals after their reference use is finished. This may occur after three or five years or in some cases after one year. Before disposing of them, however, the librarian should consult neighboring libraries. Some agreement can be reached providing for complete files of certain magazines to be kept by certain libraries, thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication and freeing shelf and storage space in all libraries.

*Readers' guide to periodical literature* is recommended for use by all libraries, as an aid to the selection of magazines, an index to magazines available in the library and an indication of articles which can be found in neighboring libraries and the State Library. (For rates of Readers' Guide, address H. W. Wilson Co., 950 University av., New York City.)

For the library with a very small collection of periodical literature the H. W. Wilson Company has recently published an *Abridged readers' guide to periodical literature* (service basis). More than 20 of the most important periodicals are indexed in this abridgment, published monthly.

Librarians who are uncertain of the procedure suggested above in reference to cooperation of libraries with subscription lists and to depositing reference files of magazines in central libraries are urged to write to the Library Extension Bureau,<sup>6</sup> sending lists of magazines under consideration for discard.

## A FEW POINTERS ON HOW TO RECOGNIZE A RARE BOOK

### *Items of value:*

Americana, New York State and local history<sup>7</sup>

—American travels by Europeans in America after the Revolutionary War, published before 1825.

—American reprints are more valuable than the English editions.

Imprints before 1800 and small town imprints have value.

<sup>6</sup>In Minnesota, Library Division, State Dept. of Education.

<sup>7</sup>In this state, Minnesota, the Northwest and local history.

The combination of early date and local imprint makes for a very rare item.

Old school books, especially readers 1, 2 and 3, if in perfect condition, have some value.

- McGuffey readers.
- Old Adam readers.
- Noah Webster primer.
- Sanders spelling book.
- International readers.

Condition of book is very important.

- Check with contents and list of plates for pages, maps, frontispiece, title page, pictures, etc.
- Book should be clean.
- Pages should have no wrinkles, mildew, foxing.
- No missing corners, torn pages, worm holes.
- Odd volumes of sets have little value.

*Rare Bibles:*

- Miniature Bibles are sometimes valuable, if small enough.
- John Brown Bible (1780).  
First Bible printed in New York State.
- Aitken Bible (1783).  
First Bible to be printed in English language in America.
- The Elliott Bible (1653).  
One of the priceless pieces.  
Bible printed for the Indians.
- The Sauer Bible.

*Items of no value:*

- Historians: Hume, Macaulay, Rollins, Gibbon, etc.<sup>8</sup>
- Grant's Memoirs.
- War of Rebellion.
- Messages and papers of the presidents.
- Bibles in small print. Dutch Bibles, etc.

## WHERE CAN HELP BE OBTAINED FOR WEEDING?

If problems in weeding arise which are not covered in these instructions, write to the Division of Adult Education and Library Extension, State Education Department, Albany, N. Y.,<sup>9</sup> asking for the help of a library supervisor. Questions concerning the value of old or rare books, or the wisdom of keeping or discarding them, may be referred to the Director of the State Library, Albany, N. Y.<sup>9</sup>

## GIVE OUR CHILDREN THE BEST AVAILABLE BOOKS, NOT THE WORST!

Every librarian, trustee and member of a book committee bears the responsibility of making the children's collection as vitally interesting and potent in character formation as possible. This can be done only by including the best available books, and by excluding mediocre or inferior books. Yet a survey of the book collections in the libraries

<sup>8</sup>Unless in early edition and in unusually good condition.

<sup>9</sup>In Minnesota, Library Division, State Dept. of Education.

of New York State reveals an astonishing number of these books on the shelves. Probably very few of them actually are purchased by the libraries. They are usually gifts. Cases have been known in which the fear of offending a donor has been the reason for circulating them.

Some librarians may erroneously consider mediocre books useful as "bait" to introduce children to the habit of reading. The experience of trained children's librarians has shown that the average child does not prefer books of this character when he has access to a good collection of other books of a more virile, interesting and worth while type.

Below is a brief outline of sane principles to follow in order that silly, sentimental and weak books may be avoided.

In considering books for little children, avoid:

- Buffoonery in picture books.
- Inanity and sameness, as in "dressed-up" animal stories.
- Books written with poor English construction and slang.
- Books in heavy bindings, or of too large size, or on too poor paper.
- Books containing pictures or reading matter depicting murder, violence, fires, etc.
- Books in which children do wrong without being punished.
- Books of slushy sentimentality.

For older children, do not place on the shelves:

- Books written in poor English.
- Books untrue to life, unless they are frankly imaginative.
- Books giving incorrect information, especially in geography, history, science and invention.
- Books in long series.
- Books emphasizing murder, cruelty, scenes of violence and low ideals.
- Books having themes as follows: child a problem; child retriever of family fortunes; child a matchmaker; child runaways; boy runaways getting rich; childish love affairs; weeping sentimental girls; the morbid, the melodramatic; overemphasis on riches; children who are "flip and smart"; emphasis on class feeling; generally, whatever you would not wish your child to be or do.

Not all series or sequels are poor. We would not exclude Louisa M. Alcott's stories, the Penrod books by Tarkington, the Jeremy stories of Walpole. Lucy Perkins' Twins are to be found in every library and, though the books have varied characters, they constitute a series of similar books. We do not condemn long series generally because they are series, but because they do not meet the standards of literature, originality and truth which should characterize all children's books. It is the content of the individual book, not the author's name or reputation, that should be the deciding factor.

The following list has been compiled by Mrs. E. S. Root and has been copied from the Bulletin of the New Hampshire Public Libraries with some additions by the Book Information Section of the New York State Library. It represents many of the books and the type of book not approved for purchase with library funds nor for placing on the shelves of any public library in New York State<sup>10</sup> as part of an approved collection of children's books.

<sup>10</sup>The Library Division does not approve of them on the shelves of Minnesota public libraries, and urges all libraries to remove them.

## A PARTIAL LIST OF SERIES NOT CIRCULATED BY STANDARD LIBRARIES

- Aldridge, Janet. Meadow-brook girls  
Alger, Horatio. Many titles  
Appleton, Victor. Moving picture series, Tom Swift series  
Arundel, Louis. Motor boat boys
- Bailey, Arthur Scott. Slumber town series, Tuck-me-in tales series  
Baker, Willard F. Bob Dexter series, Boy rancher series  
Bancroft, Edith. Jane Allen college series  
Baum, L. Frank. Oz books  
Benson, Irene Elliott. Campfire girls  
Bishop, Giles. U. S. Marines series  
Blanc, Clair. Beverly Gray series  
Blanchard, Amy. Many titles  
Bonehill, Ralph (pseud. of Edward Stratemeyer). Boy hunter series, Young sportsman's series  
Boone, Silas K. Phil Bradley series  
Botsford, Charles Alexander. Victory series  
Breitenbach, Louise Marks. Hadley Hall series  
Brooks, Amy. Dorothy Dainty series, Khaki girls, Randy series  
Burley. Uncle Sam's army boys  
Burnett, Alice Hale. Merryvale series  
Burnett, Carolyn Judson. Blue grass seminary girls  
Burnham, Margaret. Girl aviators  
Burroughs, Edgar Rice. The Tarzan books, all titles
- Carey, Rosa Nouchette. Many titles  
Carson, James. Saddle boy series  
Carter, Herbert. Boy Scout series  
Castlemon, Harry. Frank series and other series  
Chadwick, Lester. Quarterback series and other series  
Channon, Frank Ernest. Henley school boy series and other series  
Chapman, Allen. Tom Fairfield and other series  
Cody, Hiram Alfred. Rod of the lone patrol and other series  
Colver, Alice Ross. Stories about Babs  
Cory, David. Billy Bunny series, Little Jack Rabbit series  
Crane, Laura Dent. Automobile girls  
Crockett, Sherman. Great war series
- Darlington, Edgar B. P. Circus boys  
Deering, Fremont B. Border boys  
Dixon, F. W. Ted Scott series  
Douglas, Amanda Minnie. Helen Grant series  
Drake, Robert C. Boy allies  
Duffield, J. W. Bert Wilson series, Radio boys series  
Durham, Victor G. Submarine boys
- Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd books, Poppy Ott books  
Ellis, Edward Sylvester. Launch boys and other series  
Emerson, Alice B. Betty Gordon series, Ruth Fielding series
- Ferris, J. C. X Bar X boys  
Finlay, Roger Thompson. Wonder Island boys  
Finley, Martha. Elsie series  
Fisher, Elbert. Boy globe trotters  
Fitzhugh, Percy Keese. Tom Slade series  
Fletcher, Archibald Lee. Boy Scouts adventure and nature series  
Flower, Jessie Graham. Grace Harlow series  
Forbes, Graham B. Boys of Columbia High  
Forrester, Dexter J. Bungalow boys  
Foster, Walter Bertram. Clint Webb series
- Garis, Howard Roger. Buddy series, curlytops series, Uncle Wiggily series  
Garis, Lillian. Girl Scout series

- Garland, John. Ross Grant series  
 Ginther, Mary Pemberton. Beth Anne series, Betsy Hale series, Hilda and Beth series, Miss Pat series  
 Gordon, Grace. Patsy Carroll series  
 Grayson, Donald. Bob Steele series  
 Griffith, Helen Sherman. Letty books, Virginia stories  
 Hancock, Harrie Irving. Annapolis series, Boys of the army, Dave Darrin series, Grammar school series, High school boys' vacation series, Motor boat club series, West Point series, Young engineers  
 Hare, Thomas Truxton. College athletic series, Philip Kent series  
 Harvard, Aline. Army girl series  
 Hawley, Mabel C. Four little Blossoms series  
 Hayes, Clair Wallace. Boy allies  
 Hemyng, Bracebridge. Jack Harkaway series  
 Henderley, Brooks. Y. M. C. A. boys  
 Higgins, Aileen Cleveland. Little princess series  
 Holmes, Mary Jane. Many titles  
 Honeywell, Frank. Radio boys  
 Hope, Laura Lee. Bobbsey twin series, Moving picture girls, Outdoor girls  
 Jackson, Mrs. Gabriel Emille (Snow). Three little women series, Peggy Stewart series  
 Judson, Clara Ingram. Mary Jane series  
 Kay, Ross. Big war stories, Go ahead boys  
 Langworthy, John Luther. Bird boys series  
 Lawrence, Josephine. Brother and sister series, Two little fellows series  
 Lawton, Wilbur. Boy aviators, Dreadnought boys, Ocean wireless series  
 Lee, Alice Louise. Co-ed series  
 Lester, Pauline. Marjorie Dean series  
 Lincoln, Andrew Carey. Motorcycle chums series  
 McIntyre, John Thomas. Young continentals  
 Meade, Mrs. Lillie Thomas. Titles for girls  
 Mears, James R. Boys of steel  
 Miller, Agnes. Lingerlots series  
 Morrison, Gertrude W. Girls of Central High  
 North, Grace May. Adele Dering series, Virginia Davis series  
 Optic, Oliver (pseud. of William Taylor Adams). Many titles  
 Overton, Mark. Jack Winter series  
 Patchin, Frank Glines. Battle ship boys, Pony riders, Range and grange hustlers  
 Patten, Gilbert (pseud. of Burt L. Standish). Lefty series  
 Paull, Minnie E. Ruby and Ruthy series  
 Payson, Howard. Boy Scout series  
 Penrose, Margaret. Motor girls, Dorothy Dale series, Radio girls  
 Porter, Horace. Our young aeroplane scouts  
 Ralphson, George Harvey. Boy Scouts  
 Rathbone, St. George. Canoe and campfire series  
 Rockwood, Roy. Bomba books, Dave Dashaway series, Great marvel series, Speedwell series  
 Roy, Lillian Elizabeth (Becker) (pseud. of Mrs. William Nelson Montfort). Five Little Starrs series, Girl Scouts  
 Scott, Florence E. Paul and Peggy series, Morgan Oakdale series  
 Sheppard, William Henry Crispin. Don Hale series, Rambler club series  
 Southworth, Mrs. Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte. Many titles  
 Speed, Nell. Carter girls, Molly Brown series, Tucker twins  
 Standish, Burt L. Dick Merriwell series, Frank Merriwell series  
 Standish, Winn (pseud. of Walter Leon Sawyer). Jack Lorimer series  
 Stratemeyer, Edward. Dave Porter series, Rover boys series  
 Stuart, Gordon (pseud. of G. N. Madison). Boy Scout series  
 Thorndyke, H. L. Honey Bunch books  
 Tomlison, Paul Green. Flag and country series  
 Trent, Martha. Somewhere series



Vandercook, Margaret O'Bannon (Womack). Campfire girls, Girl Scout series, Ranch girls, Red Cross girls  
Victor, Ralph. Comrades series, Boy Scouts  
Walker, Abbie Phillips. Sandman series  
Walsh, George Ethelbert. Twilight animal series  
Walton, Frank. Flying machine boys  
Ward, Kenneth. Boy volunteers  
Warner, Frank A. Bobby Blake series  
Webster, Frank V. Many titles  
Wells, Carolyn. Petty series  
Wheeler, Janet D. Billie Bradley series  
Whitehill, Dorothy. Joyce Payton series, Polly Pendleton series  
Winfield, Arthur M. (pseud. of Edward Stratemeyer). Bright and bold series, Putnam Hall series  
Woolley, Lazelle Thayer. Faith Palmer series  
Wyman, Levi Parker. Golden boys  
Young, Clarence. Jack Ranger series, Motor boys, Racer boys

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*In addition to the above list of series, the Library Division would also include for removal from library shelves the following:*

All series by authors listed above

Big-Little books. All titles  
Barton, May Hollis. Many titles  
Beach, Amory. Air service boys series  
Bell, Frank. Flash Evans series  
Bowen, R. Sidney. Dave Dawson series  
Breckenridge, Gerald. Radio boys series  
Burtis, Thomson. Rex Lee series  
Carr, Annie R. Nan Sherwood series  
Chase, Josephine. Several titles  
Craine, E. J. Airplane boys  
Duncan, Julia K. Doris Force series  
Gardner, Elsie B. Maxie series  
Henty, G. A. Many titles  
Judd, Frances K. Kay Tracey series  
Keene, Carolyn. Dana girls mystery stories, Nancy Drew series  
Lloyd, Hugh. Many titles  
Martinek, Frank V. Don Winslow series  
O'Hara, David. Jimmie Drury series  
Sagendorph, Kent. Dan Perry series  
Saintsbury, Noel, jr. Great ace series, Aviation series  
Sherman, Harold M. Football series, Homerun series  
Snell, Leroy W. Northwest stories  
Snell, Roy J. Many titles  
Striker, Fran. Lone ranger series  
Sutton, Margaret. Judy Bolton series  
Wallace, Stanley J. Jack Armstrong series  
West, Dorothy. Dot and dash series

# The Disposal of Unneeded Books In a Public Library

RAYMOND H. SHOVE

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The preceding articles in this issue of MINNESOTA LIBRARIES have stressed the fact that the book collection of a public library should be a live, usable collection, and that it is advisable to examine and weed out, from time to time, those items which the library can well do without. After such material has been marked for discard the librarian is faced with the problem of disposing of it. It is the purpose of this article to offer suggestions as to how this may be done.

Some of the books, magazines, pamphlets and documents which are not needed in a public library may have a definite sale value. If this is true it is advisable to get in touch with booksellers who may be interested in buying such second-hand material. The procedure to be followed and a list of recommended dealers is given near the end of this article.

The librarian will find that in some cases the book dealers will offer to purchase only certain items, or again that they will not be interested in any of the material. She may also find from experience that the type of books discarded in her library will seldom attract the dealers. It is a mistake, however, to conclude that books are not usable merely because a dealer is unwilling to purchase them. Right here the large research library enters the picture. The University of Minnesota Library, for example, will gladly accept much of this discarded material, provided of course that it is in usable condition.

The public librarian may well ask the question, "If the books and magazines which I am advised to discard have no use in my library, of what possible use can they be in another library?" This is a reasonable question and one which can be answered only by pointing out the difference between

the purpose and function of a public library collection and that of a large research library.

Whereas the patron of a public library should have available the best and most up to date books in the field of science, art, history, etc., and a selected group of the best and most readable books of literature, the research scholar often requires not only the best books in his particular subject but also the second, third and even the tenth rate ones (providing there are such) if the product of his research is to be authoritative. The great Harvard University Library has on its shelves more than four million volumes; of this number only a small per cent would be sufficient to adequately serve the needs of the undergraduate student body. The greater part of the collection, then, has been built up for the use of research students and faculty members. Certainly, many books in so large a collection are not often used but the Harvard Library has a world-wide reputation among scholars who know that its collections in many subjects not only contain the most important material but that they are relatively complete.

For example, a university with a large and active group of faculty members and graduate students doing research in American literature must have available more than the best books of the best American writers. Not only does such a library need the complete works of the best authors, but it must have at least a representative selection of the books of less important writers. A well known professor here at the University of Minnesota has said that the University Library should aim to have on its shelves every American novel that was popular with contemporary readers. In addition to the books of many more important writers this would necessarily include the books of such writers as Marie Corelli, T. S.

(Ten nights in a barroom) Arthur, Mary J. Holmes, E. D. E. N. Southworth, Oliver Optic, Horatio Alger, Edgar Rice Burroughs and the once popular Elsie Dinsmore and Frank Merriwell stories, to name only a few. These books offer a good example of the type that might well be sent to the University Library, not being acceptable for circulation in a public library.

Then again the University Library is attempting to build a collection of textbooks of all kinds. All such books published before 1900 are welcome, and many published since that date will be gratefully received. While the books in this collection are out-of-date, and nothing would seem to be deader than a dead text book, yet when grouped together by subject and arranged chronologically they furnish valuable source material in the history of education, as well as the historical development in subject fields.

Old encyclopedias and biographical dictionaries are useful in a research library. A biographical dictionary published in 1850 may include accounts of men who are not to be found in the more recent books, while encyclopedias of that date may contain articles on subjects not included in more recent editions.

To attempt to indicate particular books wanted by the University Library would be inadequate and misleading. The needs of research are so varied that virtually all books, magazines, pamphlets and documents, on all subjects and in any language can be used, from three zeros to nine nintyne according to Dewey, provided they are not already in the library.

It often happens, of course, that a book received as a gift is a duplicate and not needed in the University Library. "What happens to these duplicates," is a question often asked. The answer is that they are on exchange lists and offered to libraries in the United States and in many foreign countries. During the past year, for example, the library sent out between two and three such duplicate lists each month and distributed some 13,701 items. Most of these 13,701 items had been received as gifts by

the University Library, so that it is evident the duplicate exchange program is directly dependant upon gifts received. In addition to the books received by the Library, exchanges undoubtedly help to build friendly relations with those countries. At present exchanges with Latin American countries are being rapidly expanded.

The reader should not conclude that the University Library is interested in receiving discards only when they are of little sale value. It is recognized however that most public library discards fall into this category. If they have value the librarian may get from their sale funds with which to purchase new books.

### Suggestions On Book Values For Minnesota Librarians

In view of the fact that unneeded material in a Minnesota library may differ considerably from that found in a New York library it may be well to note here additional information concerning book values to supplement that contained in "Weeding the Library," which appears earlier in this issue.

### Items of Value

*Americana.* Books, pamphlets and documents concerning the early history of localities, states and sections of this country. This type of material is usually considered to be true Americana, although the term is also used to include everything written by an American or about America. Most of the material mentioned below is Americana. Example: Minnesota Yearbook, 1852, which contains an account of Indian treaties. A useful guide to valuable Americana is Whitman Bennett's "Practical guide to American book collecting," N. Y., 1941. \$7.50.

*Books,* pamphlets and magazines published in Minnesota and other states during pioneer days, especially if they contain material about the state or surrounding states. Official documents of cities and states are often the earliest imprints.

*Documents.* Constitutional conventions, all states, especially early ones of each state. Example: Journal of Minnesota Constitutional Convention, 1857. Executive documents, especially the early years. House and Senate Journals are in demand although the price is usually not high.

*Magazines and newspapers.* Early ones published in each state. Example: *Minnesota Magazine*, 1869-70. Some back files of periodicals have a very good sale value, although most of those in a small library will bring very little on the market, if indeed a dealer cares to handle them at any price. One dealer is now offering to pay \$350 for the first twenty volumes of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. Another will pay \$20 each for the first fourteen volumes. A number of dealers would gladly pay from \$400-\$500 for a complete file of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and \$40 or \$50 for the first volume. On the other hand it would be hard to find a bookseller willing to pay twenty-five cents a volume for complete bound files of such important but plentiful magazines as Harpers, Atlantic or Scribners. Oddly enough back files of Fortune Magazine are quite easily obtainable, while issues of the Readers Digest before 1926 are scarce and valuable. Space does not permit more than this brief discussion of old magazines. The Order Department of the University Library, however, maintains a Serials Price File which now contains more than 75,000 listings of serials that have been offered for sale by booksellers. Information on magazine values contained in this file is available to any Minnesota library.

Ordinarily histories of cities, counties, states or sections of a country are more valuable than histories of a nation or of the world.

American fiction published before 1850. Many titles published since 1850 are also valuable but those published before 1850 are much in demand.

Scientific books are usually more valuable in latest editions while books of creative literature are most valuable in first or early editions.

## Recommended Procedure In Disposing Of Unneeded Material

1. Sort out only those items likely to have a sale value. Prepare a checklist, indicating author, title, place and date of publication. State condition, noting particularly the presence or lack of library ownership marks. The list may be sent to any of the following booksellers:

G. E. STECHERT & CO., 31-33 E. 10th St., N. Y. This firm may purchase printed material, not necessarily rare, on any subject. Completely reliable. Sells mainly to libraries rather than to private collectors of rare books.

GOODSPEED'S BOOKSHOP, 18 Beacon St., Boston. Handles rare books of all types, including Americana. Reliable as above. Sells to libraries but also caters to private book collectors. Likely to be interested in purchasing only the more valuable items.

WILCOX & FOLLETT, 1255 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago. Does a large business in textbooks and may be interested in purchasing material of this type. Textbooks no longer used in schools and colleges have a very low sale value however.

BARNES & NOBLE, 105 5th Ave., N. Y. Business similar to the above firm but also handles books other than textbooks. Not a rare book dealer.

H. W. WILSON Co., 950-972 University Ave., N. Y. Buys back issues of magazines. Issues a sizeable Want List from time to time. Pays rather low prices but buys odd numbers of magazines in which other dealers may not be interested. Latter is of course true of other periodical dealers attempting to complete files of various periodicals.

P. & H. BLISS, Middletown, Conn. Deals exclusively in serial publications.

H. G. FIEDLER, 31-33 E. 10th St., N. Y. Specializes in scientific books and magazines, botany, zoology, etc.

THE HOOSIER BOOKSHOP, 2135 W. Alabama St., Indianapolis, Ind., OLD HICKORY BOOKSHOP, 65 5th Ave. N. W., and SCHU-

MAN'S, 730 5th Ave. N. Y., specialize in old medical books and magazines.

Bibles. A. R. RUMBALL-PETRIE, 507 5th Ave., N. Y., specializes in old bibles and has issued a number of publications on the subject. His "*Money for old Bibles*" sells at twenty-five cents. Patrons who inquire about the value of a family Bible "a hundred years old" can be referred to Mr. Rumball-Petrie.

2. Send your list to any of the auction houses listed below, asking if they would be interested in offering the material for sale in their auction catalogs.

ALBERT SAIFER, 10 Aster Place, N. Y. Catalogs much medium and low priced material.

CITY BOOK AUCTION, 120 Fourth Ave., N. Y. Catalogs much medium and low priced material.

G. A. BAKER & Co., 3 W. 46th St., N. Y. Handles medium to high priced material.

3. After you have sold what you can, send the list to either the University Librarian or the Order Department of the University Library. The list will be returned with those items marked which the Library would be pleased to accept, together with shipping instructions.

4. If you decide not to make up a list of unneeded publications to send to dealers write to the University of Minnesota Library indicating the type of material you have. The University Library will report noting material wanted. It may be that arrangements can be made so that similar material can be sent without first writing to the University Library. Some librarians have found from experience that their discards are of such a nature that it does not pay to try to sell them. Others feel that the use made of them by the University Library in many instances is greater than the amount received by their sale. Each

library must of course determine its own policy. If the librarian is not certain of all the material, he may request that items of unusual market value be set aside and reported on by the University Library.

In partial exchange the University Library, from its large duplicate stock, offers to attempt to supply Minnesota libraries with back issues of needed periodical publications. Smaller libraries of the state will probably have little need for such a service but they should feel free to make requests. Lists of wants should be addressed to the Order Department.

The University Library will pay all transportation costs on such material, which should be sent the cheapest way. A package containing books only, can be sent by book-post at the rate of one and one-half cents a pound. Postage will be returned by the University Library. Small shipments of magazines can be sent most economically by express, but be sure to indicate "old magazine rate" in order to get the special low rate. Larger shipments of both books and magazines can be sent freight collect either by train or truck. The librarian should ascertain comparative costs before shipping.

### Summary

The public library best serves its community with a collection of usable, current, live books. A university library, however, must in addition provide large quantities of older material for its research scholars.

There are on the shelves, or in the store-rooms of many public libraries throughout the state books, magazines, pamphlets and documents that are of little or no use to those libraries. This obsolete material should be weeded out and either sold to a book-dealer or turned over to a research library such as that at the University of Minnesota.



# MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Tentative Program

M. L. A. CONFERENCE

St. Cloud, Minnesota

October 2, 3, 4

### Thursday

- 9:00 A.M. Registration\*  
10:00 A.M. First General Session  
Address of Welcome  
Speakers — Mr. Ralph H. Rosenberger, Director of Schools, St. Cloud State Reformatory  
— Miss Perrie Jones, St. Paul Public Library  
— Dr. Gaza Schutz, former Reference Librarian, Montclair, N. J., Public Library  
12:30 P.M. Junior Members' Section Luncheon and Business Meeting  
2:30 P.M. Second General Session — Business Meeting  
8:00 P.M. Third General Session  
Speaker — Mr. Arundel Esdaile, President, British Library Association

### Friday

- 8:30 A.M. New Members' Breakfast  
9:30 A.M. Section Meetings  
Trustees' Section — Panel Discussion on Trustees' Problems  
Small Public Libraries Section — Panel Discussion of Library Problems  
Catalog Section — Report on A. L. A. Catalog Section  
— Round Table Discussion of Current Catalog Problems  
12:30 P.M. Section Luncheons  
Trustees and Small Public Libraries Sections  
Catalog Section  
Institution Librarians — Luncheon at State Reformatory  
2:00 P.M. Free Afternoon  
3:00 P.M. Tea for Children and Young People Section — St. Cloud H. S. Library  
6:30 P.M. Fourth General Session  
Banquet  
Speaker — Mr. Glanville Smith, Author

### Saturday

- 9:30 A.M. Section Meetings  
Children and Young People Section  
Speakers — Jean Gardiner Smith, Minneapolis Public Library  
— Mr. Frank K. Walter, University of Minnesota Library  
College Section  
Program to be announced  
12:30 P.M. Section Luncheons  
Children and Young People Section  
Speaker — Mrs. Inger Boye, Children's Librarian, Highland Park, Ill., Public Library  
College Section

\*Conference headquarters—St. Paul Hotel.

## NEWS ITEMS

### Blue Earth County System Gets Under Way

The Blue Earth County Library System came into existence November 5, 1940, when residents of the county voted to finance a county library with a one mill tax to be levied on all taxable property not already taxed for that purpose.

Residents of the county were familiar with the County Library service as the WPA State-Wide Library Demonstration Service had sponsored library stations in eight towns throughout the county. Eagle Lake, Amboy, Garden City, Good Thunder, Beauford, Madison Lake, St. Clair, Vernon Center are still centers for book distribution.

According to the State Library Law, a contract has been made with the Mankato Public Library Board that provides space for the Central station, use of books from the Public Library on a rental basis, and, in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners, the Public Library Board serves as the County Library Board. Mrs. Clara C. Bordwell is the Supervisor of County Service.

The work of organizing the system began on July 1 when the first installment of money in the amount of \$7,214 was made available to the library. This amount is to cover the period July-December, 1941.

Equipment, including furniture, shelving, supplies and books, has been ordered.

Florence J. Powell is the County Librarian; an assistant is to be named soon.

### Minneapolis Public Library

By mutual agreement of the Library Board and the Board of Education, the latter has taken over the full financial responsibility and direction of nine Junior High School libraries, formerly operated by the Minneapolis Public Library as branches of the Public Library. The Minneapolis

Public Library has met the full salary cost of these branches and the major portion of the book cost, as well as all cataloging and binding cost.

In practice, it was found that the usefulness of these branches as Public Library branches fell far short of corresponding with the financial burden upon the Library. Upon a request by the Library Board that the Board of Education assume a larger proportion of the total operating cost, the Board of Education decided instead to assume their whole cost and to operate them merely as school libraries.

The various members of the Public Library staff who had been assigned to the Junior High School libraries will be assigned by the Public Library to other duties including the filling of approximately twelve positions which had been allowed to remain vacant or which had been filled by temporary assignments during the period that the whole question was under review.

### Bequest

A bequest of \$500 from Mrs. Hubertine Domm was received in May, 1941, by the Minneapolis Public Library. This gift will be used for the purchase of books that would make for courage, such as inspiring lives of the handicapped. The fund will be expended for books useful to children and to adults and to be made available through the Central Library and Branches. The character of the books to be purchased was determined by the fact that Mrs. Domm had shown rare courage during the many years that she was handicapped by blindness.

### Range Trustees Meeting

The spring meeting of the Range Library Trustees Association was held in Hibbing on May 2. All of the 17 libraries which make up the organization were represented

at the meeting. A total of 118 librarians and trustees were present.

Mrs. Adams, president of the first Hibbing Library board, and Judge Hughes, also a member of the first board, were honored at the dinner.

Speakers of the evening were Mrs. D. A. McKenzie, President of the Trustees' Section of the Minnesota Library Association, who explained the purpose of the Section and urged its support by all trustees; and Mr. E. O. Harbin who gave a forceful address, "Dynamic Public Service."

Present officers are: Mr. F. F. Cope, Virginia, President; Mrs. Carl Shuster, Biwabik, Vice President; Mrs. George Jokinen, Kinney, Secretary-Treasurer. The fall meeting will be held in Buhl.

### Sectional Meeting

The Arrowhead Library Club held its semi-annual meeting at Chisholm on May 7. Forty-six librarians attended.

At the business meeting, which opened at 10:30 A.M., a discussion was held on various administrative problems such as vacations, sick leave, hours of work, staff privileges, budgets, book reviews and fines.

At the luncheon, Mr. Norman Bassett of the Demco Company spoke on "Places and Personalities" that he had seen on recent European trips.

Present officers are: Mrs. Vivian G. Norrid, Eveleth, President; Maud Grogan, Cloquet, Vice President; Lynne Worth, Duluth, Secretary; Mary Grivich, Mountain Iron (now in St. Paul), Treasurer.

### Personnel

Florence Powell, formerly librarian of the Moorhead Public Library, and for the past year a supervisor on the WPA State-Wide Library Project, has been appointed librarian in charge of county work of the Man-kato Public Library.

Margaret Hannigan, Librarian of the Foley High School Library, has been ap-

pointed supervisor on the WPA State-Wide Library Project, and will be located in the Redwood Falls area of WPA District Number 4.

Donna Rosebrock, librarian of the Owatonna Public Library, was married to Mr. Joseph Markley of Minneapolis on June 7. Mrs. Markley will continue as librarian of Owatonna.

Ruth Van Dyke, librarian of the Coleraine Public Library since 1915, resigned her position July 1. She was married to C. D. Smith of Coleraine on July 5.

Mildred A. Nelson, Illinois '30, formerly librarian of the Mission, Texas, Public Library, succeeds Miss Van Dyke at Coleraine.

Bernice Finnegan, librarian of the Sauk Centre Public Library, has resigned to accept a position as Camp Librarian of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Mrs. L. L. Pickert, librarian of the St. Charles Public Library, has resigned and has been succeeded by Florence Rhomes of St. Charles.

Pearl Durst, librarian of the Verona, Pa., High School Library, has been appointed librarian of the Marshall Public Library.

Mr. Harry Stritman, librarian of the Longfellow Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, returned July 1st after a year spent at Columbia University on an A.L.A. fellowship.

At the A.L.A. Conference in Boston, Mr. Stritman was elected to the chairmanship of the National Junior Members' Round Table.

Gladys Olson, formerly school librarian at Lake City, is the new librarian at Jefferson High School, Winona.

Imogene Swensen, school librarian at St. James for the past two years, has been appointed librarian of the Fairmont High School.

Margaret Moore, Junior College and High School librarian at Eveleth, has resigned to accept a position in Baltimore, Maryland.

Elsie Person, formerly school and public librarian of Sauk Rapids, has been appointed librarian of the Litchfield Public Schools.

### Forward With Books

This is the theme for Children's Book Week, November 2-8 inclusive. A new manual of Suggestions for Book Week has been prepared. Helen Sewell, the well-known illustrator of children's books, has designed an attractive poster interpreting the new theme. Both of these, and other useful promotion items, will be available to librarians by writing to Marion L. Woodburn, R. R. Bowker Co., 62 W. 45th St., New York City.

### Project Approved

The continuance of the Minnesota WPA State-Wide Library Project has been assured for the current year with the approval of the Project in Washington to the amount of \$768,772 for the organization and operation of library services and book repair in public and school libraries throughout Minnesota.

### Library Awards

At the conference of the A.L.A. in Boston the annual Newbery and Caldecott awards went this year to two men, each of whom wrote and illustrated his book. The Newbery Medal was awarded to Armstrong Sperry for his book "Call it courage," and the Caldecott Medal to Robert Lawson for "They were strong and good."

The James Terry White award for notable published professional writing in the library field was conferred on Anne T. Eaton, librarian of the Lincoln School, New York City. Miss Eaton received the White Medal for her book "Reading with children," published by Viking Press, 1940.

### Postal Rate Bill

The United States Senate passed on June 30 the bill to establish permanently the 1½-cent postal rate for books. The bill is now pending in the House and passage there is expected shortly. Meanwhile, President Roosevelt has extended the 1½-cent rate, which now exists by proclamation, from June 30th to September 30th.

### Clearing House For Library Problems

In cooperation with the Library Division, the Minnesota Library Association will place a desk, with an attendant except during meetings, in the main lobby of the hotel to furnish information on your library problems, and to make arrangements for introduction and consultation with librarians who have had experience in the solution of your specific problems. A basic collection of important and recent professional literature will be available for examination.

### Recorded Programs

A series of ten recorded programs, explaining and illustrating the folk songs of the American people as they are sung by the people themselves, has been prepared by the Radio Research Project of the Library of Congress and now is available to radio stations and educational and cultural groups. The release of these programs affords the general public an opportunity to hear for the first time actual field recordings of American folk music. The programs are narrated by John A. Lomax who, for 30 years, has been collecting recordings of American folk music for the Library.



# BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

## MINNESOTA IN PRINT

Compiled by ELEANOR DAVIS

### Books About Minnesota

*A number of librarians have asked for lists of books about Minnesota, also about the industries of the state and Indians in Minnesota. Such lists are given in:*

- \*Blegen, T. C. *Minnesota, its history and its people, a study outline with topics and references.* University of Minnesota Press, 1937. 1.75

The references mentioned in the title are carefully selected lists of the best available books on each of the subjects treated in the 53 chapters which "cover all aspects of the state's development: physical, social, economic, political, cultural." This book should be in every Minnesota library and should be kept at or near the librarian's desk for constant reference.

The following is a brief list of some of the more important books on Minnesota which have appeared since Mr. Blegen's book was published in 1937. Other titles may be found in *Library Notes and News*, September, 1939, p. 373-74.

- \*Blegen, T. C. *Building Minnesota.* Heath, 1938. 1.48

This is the best brief history of Minnesota, is suitable for use alike with upper grade and high school pupils and with adults, and should be in every library in the state. Its scope is the same as that of the above title. Brief booklists are given at the end of each chapter.

- \*Clapesattle, H. B. *The Doctors Mayo.* University of Minnesota Press. To be published Nov. 17, 1941. 3.75.

This is an important book, which most librarians will want.

- Curran, H. A., and Parsons, E. D. *Government of Minnesota.* Rev. ed. Syndicate Pub. Co., 501 7th Ave. S., Minneapolis, 1940. 1.00.

- Holand, H. R. *Westward from Vinland.* Duell, 1940. 3.00. Further evidence that the runic inscriptions on the Kensington stone prove the Viking penetration of Minnesota in 1362.

- \*Nute, G. L. *Voyageur's highway: Minnesota's border lake land.* Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1941. paper 50c; cloth 1.50.

- Scovell, Mrs. B. L. *Brief history of the Minnesota Woman's Christian Temperance Union.* Bruce, 1939. 2.00.

- Vestal, Stanley. *King of the fur traders; the deeds and deviltry of Pierre Esprit Radisson.* Houghton, 1940. 3.50.

- Wilder, Mrs. L. B. *Mayo clinic.* Rev. ed. Harcourt, 1939. 1.50.

Before purchasing, librarians may wish to wait to see the Clapesattle title, listed above.

- Writers' program, Minnesota. *Minneapolis, the story of a city.* Minn. Dept. of Education, 1940. 85c. (Order from Minneapolis Board of Education.)

\*Starred titles are especially recommended for purchase by all libraries.



## Books By Minnesota Authors

## General Books

- Abbott, Mrs. D. T. *Northern garden week by week*. University of Minnesota Press, 1938. 75c.
- *Indoor gardener*. University of Minnesota Press, 1939. 1.50.
- Bennett, D. A. *Sold to the ladies! three girls on a barge*. Stewart, 1940. 2.50.
- Carlson, S. W. *Dr. Henry L. Williams, a football biography*. Carlson, 1939. 2.00.
- Fitz-Patrick, Nan, ed. *Minneapolis skyline, an anthology of Minneapolis poems*. Minnesota Poetry Circle, 1940. 1.00.
- Gag, Wanda. *Growing pains, diaries and drawings for the years 1908-1917*. Coward, 1940. 3.75. Autobiography of artist and author whose childhood was spent in New Ulm.
- Gray, James. *Illinois*. Farrar, 1940. 2.50. One of the most interesting volumes in the Rivers of America series. The author is the St. Paul novelist and book reviewer.
- Hoffman, Ruth, and Hoffman, Helen. *We married an Englishman*. Carrick, 1938. 2.75.
- *Our Arabian nights*. Carrick, 1940. 2.75. These two titles are sprightly accounts of life in Iraq.
- Jorgenson, Theodore, and Solum, N. O. *Ole Edvart Rolvaag, a biography*. Harper, 1939. 4.00.
- Krauch, Elsa. *Mind restored, the story of Jim Curran*. Putnam, 1937. 2.50. Personal account of mental illness, treatment and cure in a Minnesota state hospital.
- Smith, Glanville. *Many a green isle*. Harper, 1941. 3.50. Narrative of the author's travels in the West Indies.
- Ueland, Brenda. *Me*. Putnam, 1940. 3.00.
- Atkins, Elizabeth. *Holy suburb*. Dutton, 1941. 2.50. Family life in small college town in Nebraska a generation ago.
- Carlson, S. W. *Football fables*. Author, 1939. 2.00.
- Krey, Mrs. Laura (Smith). *And tell of time*. Houghton, 1938. 2.75. Grosset, 1.29. Historical novel of Texas during the Reconstruction period.
- *On the long tide*. Houghton, 1940. 2.75. Historical novel of Texas at the time of Texas independence.
- Reeves, Mrs. Elizabeth. *House for Emily*. Farrar, 1941. 2.50. Story of a wife and mother.
- Seeley, Mabel. *Crying Sisters, a mystery story*. Doubleday, 1939. 2.00. Grosset, 1941. 2.00. Light novel of the north.
- *Listening house*. Doubleday, 1938. 2.00. Grosset, 75c. Mystery story.
- *Whispering Cup*. Doubleday, 1940. 2.00. Mystery story; scene laid in southeastern Minnesota town.
- Wise, Mrs. E. V. *Wheels in the timber*. Appleton, 1941. 2.00. Life story of a lumberman.
- WILLIAMS, CARLTON. *Trailer doctor*. Penn, 1941. 2.00. Light novel of the north woods.

## Books for Children

- Brink, Mrs. C. R. *All over town*. Macmillan, 1939. 2.00. Humorous adventures of three lively children.
- Chute, B. J. *Shattuck cadet*. Macmillan, 1940. 2.00. Military school life in Fari-bault.
- Holberg, Mrs. R. L. *Oh, Susannah*. Doubleday, 1939. 1.50. A little girl in Minneapolis seventy years ago.
- Hubbard, M. A. *Little Whirlwind*. Macmillan, 1940. 2.00. Adventures of a pioneer girl among Chippewa Indians in northern Minnesota.
- Aldrich, Darragh. *Girl going nowhere*. Kinsey, 1939. 2.00. Story of boy and girl wanderers; scene laid in small Minnesota town.

- Lovelace, Mrs. M. H. *Betsy-Tacy*. Crowell, 1940. 1.75. Story of the friendship between two little girls.
- McCormick, D. J. *Tall timber tales; more Paul Bunyan stories*. Caxton, 1939. 2.00.
- McKown, Gretchen. *All the days were Antonia's*. Viking, 1939. 2.00. Based on actual experiences in Deadwood in stage coach days.
- Palmer, Mrs. E. P. *Give me a river*. Scribner, 1939. 1.75. Scene laid on the St. Croix River at Stillwater a generation ago.
- *Up the river to danger*. Scribner, 1940. 1.75. Pioneer story of life on the Minnesota River.
- Patch, E. M. *Prairie neighbors*. Macmillan, 1940. 1.75. Story of birds and animals common to the prairie region.
- Pearson, Mrs. M. W., and Bullis, F. H. *Injuns comin'!* Scribner, 1935. 2.00. Pioneering family near Hutchinson in 1856.
- Ross, Margaret. *Kaga's brother, a story of the Chippewas*. Harper, 1936. 2.00. Historically accurate tale of Lake Superior country for older boys.
- Scott, Mrs. A. O. S. *Story of Kattor*. Coward, 1939. 1.25. Animal fable for little children by a member of the New Ulm library staff.
- Turngren, Annette. *Copper kettle*. Nelson, 1939. 1.50.

### Recent Publications For Librarians

- BALDWIN, E. V., and MARCUS, W. E. *Library costs and budgets*. Bowker, 1941. 201p. 3.00.

"Thirty-seven public libraries cooperated in making the studies which laid the factual basis for this pioneering volume in scientific cost accounting for libraries. The findings and analysis of this group study are now made available to all libraries as a plan by which the efficiency of an individual library may be accurately appraised. The results of this study will prove of definite value, and may point the way to new economies, larger budgets which are needed, and more efficient services; to a broader and more effective use of books and printed material—and even to the need of more books."

- DOUGLAS, M. P. *Teacher-librarian's handbook of organization and practice*. American Library Association, 1941. 160p. 1.90.

"Designed for the untrained person. Gives practical help in the organization of the small school library, and in the development of a workable yet effective

library service within the school. This book is not intended as a substitute for training. Chapters cover: the pupils and the teacher-librarian; organizing the book collection; classifying and cataloging; book selection and ordering; non-book materials; instruction in use of books and libraries; care of the library and the books; room arrangement, furniture, equipment; publicity and promotion."

- LATHROP, E. A., and KEESECKER, W. W. *Laws affecting school libraries*. Washington, U. S. Superintendent of Documents. 20c.

This bulletin issued by the U. S. Office of Education is organized into two major sections: Part I provides a summary of school library legislation for all states and Part II gives a digest of school library legislation for each state. Included in the summary are detailed tables supplying information on establishment and financial support of school libraries, duties relating to their administration and supervision, and laws relating to the selection, care, and use of school library books. Relationships between public libraries or

extension agencies and school libraries are also reported.

MARTIN, L. K. *Magazines for high schools: an evaluation of a hundred titles*. Wilson, 1941. 161p. \$1.75.

In this volume 100 magazines have been analyzed and the results of special studies and polls are compared. Tables group the magazines by interests, such as agriculture, art, consumers, current comment, aviation, drama, science, nature, health, etc. There is also specific information on each periodical considered—data as to price, frequency of publication, date established, circulation, size, pages, quality of paper, type, illustrations, and recommended level—whether for junior or senior high school.

RANDALL, W. M. *The acquisition and cataloging of books*. University of Chicago Press, 1941. 408p. \$2.50.

Comprises papers presented before the 5th Institute of the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago. The valid information presented in these papers, the facts on processes and results, constitute a text for library administrators and for all those concerned with the acquisition of library materials—a working text with stimulating ideas for the future.

RIMKUS, H. E. *The centralized school library*. Wilson, 1940. 110p. \$1.25

In this book the author, librarian of the Clinton, N. Y., Central High School, has written of her own experiences, her

problems and how they were met in a centralized rural school area. Problems of selection, distribution, and organization are among the subjects analyzed and for which solutions are suggested.

*Schools and public libraries; working together in school library service*. Joint Committee of the National Education Association and the American Library Association, 1941. 64p. 25c.

The purpose of this study is to throw new light on the old question of School and public library cooperation in school-library service. Eighty-nine communities, selected on the basis of cordial working relationships between the public library and the schools, provided the facts for Part II. Ten community programs of school library service are described as integrated case studies. In the final section the point is stressed that good schools need school libraries. Concrete suggestions are given for stronger working relationships to make such service possible.

WELLARD, J. H. *The public library comes of age*. Wilson, 1940. 204p. \$2.60.

"The public library in its relation to society and as an efficient cultural agency is the subject of this well-written, analytical survey. The author compares the democratic values found in English, American, German, and Russian libraries. He considers the relations of libraries to other social agencies, as well as practical matters such as administration, routine, and economy. A stimulating philosophy of librarianship by an Englishman."



# TEACHER- LIBRARIAN'S HANDBOOK

BY MARY PEACOCK DOUGLAS

Designed for the untrained person. Gives practical help in the organization of the small school library, and in the development of a workable yet effective library service within the school. This book is not intended as a substitute for training.

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Mary Peacock Douglas, English teacher and teacher-librarian, 1923-1925, and school librarian, 1925-1930, has been State Director of School Libraries for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction since 1930.

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